

International leaders to gather at EMU Dec. 9 for State of the Strait environmental summit

Issues include regional needs, research from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie

by Pamela Young, Published December 01, 2015



YPSILANTI – International officials, researchers, environmentalists and conservation groups will gather at Eastern Michigan University Dec. 9 to discuss the latest environmental research and management efforts in the Lake St. Clair-western Lake Erie waterways, during the State of the Strait conference.

The summit - *Coordinating Conservation in the St. Clair-Detroit River System* - runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the EMU Student Center. The event is free and open to the public.

The conference will explore current efforts and new ways to maximize the effectiveness of conservation efforts and incorporate socioeconomic factors into regional conservation planning.

The need to prioritize restoration, monitor effectiveness and adaptively manage coastal systems is critical for the St. Clair-Detroit River System, according to conference organizers. Diverse partnerships are contributing to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the region through research, planning and on-the-ground action that, if coordinated, can more effectively address regional needs and develop solutions that equally enhance socioeconomic values.

Presentations range from the Lake Erie biodiversity conservation strategy and the St. Clair and Detroit River Systems Initiative to the Environmental Protection Agency's national coastal condition assessment, water quality, and fish habitat in the Detroit River.

The day will end with a panel discussion on future goals and regional approaches to advancing measurable conservation projects in the St. Clair-Detroit River System and western Lake Erie.

Steve Francoeur, from the Department of Biology at Eastern Michigan University, and Jan Ciborowski, from the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Windsor, are co-chairs for the summit.

For more information, visit the [State of the Strait website](#) for a list of speakers and topics, or contact Francoeur at steve.francoeur@emich.edu or Ciborowski at cibor@uwindsor.ca



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